The form of the building is that of a Greek cross, with a dome in the centre, the *chef d'œuvre* of Soufflot. The front is ornamented by twenty-two columns.

Kaulbach.—This master is now engaged in the design of the cartoon which will form the great fresco of the entrance to the new museum of Berlin. It represents "the flower period (*Blüthenzeit*) of Grecian art," which is grandly reflected on the canvas of the great German painter. M. Muhn the chief assistant of Director Kaulbach, is at Berlin, preparing for the opening of this part of the building next summer.

Cologne Cathedral.—The works at this huge building are progressing, as the voluntary contributions of this year exceed 30,000 thalers. The Pope has sent crosses of his order to several persons engaged in the undertaking. M. Wiener has made a medal, representing the *dome* as it is, and as it will be when finished, after the designs of the building, by Councillor Zwirner. The explanatory text to the coin is written in German, French, and English. The diameter of the medal is 28 lines, and its cost 12 thalers in silver and 1 thaler in bronze.

STATE OF TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.

BEING a frequent visiter to the Metropolis, I have from time to time noticed with regret the filthy-looking condition of Trafalgar-square proceeding from the leaky state of the ponds; and, upon one occasion, saw work going forward that appeared to me a desirable but vain attempt to make them perfectly sound. I would, therefore, venture to suggest whether or not a small gutter cut round the base of each pond would not at all events answer the present purpose to confine the small quantity of escape to a few inches, instead of allowing it to straggle, as it does at present, over the surface of the pavement. C. E. K.

*** Something effectual should at once be done here: the present condition of the *Place* is miserable. The cement pavement laid down as bands to the stone pavement has failed entirely. Some particulars of its formation might be useful as a warning.

MEMORANDA OF WORKS IN IRELAND.

THE works at the new Lunatic Asylum, which is being erected at *Mullingar*, by the Commissioners of Public Works, from the designs of Mr. Mulvany, are progressing. The building has a frontage of 735 ft 10 in.; and the centre portion extends 664 ft. 10 in. The exterior walls are being erected of rubble masonry, with horizontal beds and vertical joints: all the cut stone is from the quarries at Tullamore. The dressings round windows and doors of the centre building, entrance porch, projecting oriels, mullions, &c. are of tooled and chiselled work, the remaining portion of cut stone being punched and drafted. On principal story of centre building is an entrance-hall, with porter's room communicating with same; master's and matron's rooms, each, 22 ft. 7 in. by 16 ft.; a steward's room, 20 ft. 4 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.; manager's and board room, 25 ft. by 16 ft. 8 in.; surgery, &c. The first floor of this portion contains six bed rooms of various sizes, with a recreation room, 34 ft. 10 in. by 25 ft., linen and clothes store, &c. A chapel is situated over recreation room, and has in connection therewith a clergyman's apartment, staircase, &c. The east and west wings, which are devoted to the accommodation of male and female patients, respectively contain, a reception room, 13 ft. 5 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.; twelve single rooms, 9 ft. by 7 ft. 6 in.; dormitories, with attendants' rooms, clothes stores, padded rooms, wash rooms, water closets, &c., all of which are entered from a corridor 10 feet wide, lit by windows in front of building. Similar arrangements are carried out on the floors above. The general appearance of the building is simple, and the style is Tudor Gothic. The centre building forms a distinct feature, having two projecting wings, with the entrance porch between them: at either extremity are corresponding wings terminating in gables, and surmounted by finials: large oriel windows project from the face of wings, and are finished with a cut stone roof. Between each projecting portion is a series of buttresses, and the windows of the three stories are of simple character, having plain label moulding, mullions, &c. Original contract, 24,203*l.* Mr. John Smith is the builder.

The committee of Natural History of the Royal *Dublin* Society, have "*at length*," decided respecting the proposed Museum; of the plans submitted in competition two were selected, as being most worthy of adoption; one by Mr. John J. Lyons, architect, and the other by Mr. Duncan C. Ferguson, architect (*and master over the architectural school of design in connection with the society.*) After a long deliberation that of the latter gentleman was accepted.

A new Presbyterian College is to be built at *Belfast*. The proposed building is to have a frontage of 130 feet and a depth of 40 feet, to stand on a site (overlooking the Queen's College) 277 ft. by 400 ft. An entrance hall and five rooms of unequal dimensions, with a superficial area averaging 900 or 1000 square feet, porter's rooms, water closets, urinals, &c., &c., are to be provided. The cost is not to exceed 2,500*l.* and the architect whose services are engaged is expected to forfeit his right to any fees over 100*l.* the surplus to be considered a donation to the college,—a novel proposition.

St. Mary's chapel at Limerick is to be rebuilt, and a subscription list has been set on foot for that purpose.

New transepts are to be erected to the church of St. Mathias at *Dublin*, according to the plans furnished by Messrs. Louch and Son, architects.

Considerable progress has been made in the completion of the Knockwilliam contract, and also in the construction of the new works between Knockwilliam and Mullinvat, on the *Waterford and Kilkenny* Railway; and it is expected, that the line will be finished against next spring, to the point of junction with the Waterford and Limerick Railway.

A new National Model Agricultural school has been opened at Woodstock: it is situated at the Western slope of Brandon-hill. The designs have been furnished by the architect to the Commissioners of National Education.

The sum of 3,000*l.* will be required by the Corporation of Dublin for the construction of sewers during the ensuing year.

A new bank is to be erected at Kells, according to the designs of Mr. Wm. F. Caldbeck, architect.

LONDON QUAYS AND SEWERAGE.

TUNNEL ACROSS THE MERSEY.

MORE than four years ago I submitted to a well-known legal firm in Liverpool the sketch of a project for placing a submarine tunnel (of similar construction to that which at present spans the Menai Straits) between the town of Liverpool and the opposite shores of the Mersey, but was, however, given to understand that the idea was altogether too visionary to meet with any sort of favour with the capitalists of that city. Never having had an opportunity since of examining the matter, I am unable to say to what extent I had proposed a feasible undertaking. Observing in a colonial paper that this identical scheme is actually under contemplation, I have taken the liberty of calling your attention to, I trust, a happier application of this system.

It has occurred to me, that by no other method of construction than this could the basin of the Thames be relieved of the offensive burden it is at present doomed to bear; its banks adorned; and the public accommodated with all the advantages of a noble line of quays from Westminster to London-bridge.

By the adoption of such a system of *tubular quays*, constructed so as to become the recipients of the City sewers, it would then be in the power of the authorities to establish, at proper intervals, manufactories for the conversion of liquid into patent manure; or to otherwise dispose of it as judged best.

As the level at which these tubes would have to be sunk would be incompatible with the existence of a continuous thoroughfare, I would propose that a roading should be carried upon it, on columns or archway, at such an elevation as would connect it with the several streets and bridges at present adjoining or spanning the river. C. E.

Canada West.

*** The suggestion, as our readers know, is not a new one. We insert this note that it may be kept in mind.

HEALTH ACTS.

Dewsbury.—The Board of Health for this place has just been elected under the provisions of the Public Health Act, and held its first meeting on the 22nd inst. We are glad to find that the utmost unanimity prevails amongst the members of the Board, and that they are one and all determined to carry out the Public Health Act with zeal and spirit. They intend to lose no time in making the necessary arrangements for sewering the district, and providing it with a good and ample supply of water, of which all, but particularly the poorer classes, are now in the utmost need.

Dartford.—We find that the local Board of Health, having received the Ordnance survey of their district, intend to lose no time in laying out the works of drainage and water supply. A meeting of the local Board was held on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at which it was resolved that the Ordnance plans should be forwarded to Mr. Ranger, who had some time previously been appointed their consulting engineer, and that that gentleman should be instructed to proceed forthwith in drawing up a report on the most advisable source for the future water supply of the town, as well as on the best mode of laying down complete and efficient works of sewerage and house drainage.

REVISION OF BUILDINGS ACT.

AN endeavour is being made in Greenwich and Lewisham, by the builders and other persons interested in house property, to devise means by which such alterations shall be made in the Metropolitan Buildings Act, as will cause it to be a public benefit, instead of, as it now manifestly is, a public nuisance. It is notorious to all persons, directly or indirectly concerned in the erection of buildings, that the present Act is exceedingly crude, and in many instances its operations have been unjust and oppressive. The fees sometimes, and I speak from my own experience, have amounted to as much as 25 per cent., and sometimes 75 per cent. on the cost of the work, when at the same time no possible benefit could be derived from the supervision of the surveyor; and the consequence is, that many improvements, particularly in small properties, which are necessary for health and cleanliness, are not carried out, or else every endeavour is made to evade the law; and it is thought to be praiseworthy, and something to boast of, when the evasion is successful. A large portion of the clauses of the Act have caused much unnecessary interference, without effecting any good purpose. It only requires a few earnest men to move in this matter, and I know they could lay before the public a mass of evidence, showing that the Act does not effect the purposes for which it was intended, but, on the contrary, oftentimes produces an enormous loss in time and money, and in many cases has been ruinously oppressive. The committee would gladly receive communications, as they are anxious the movement should be on as extended a scale as possible.

JOHN PARKER.

A HOARDING.—I had occasion to be passing along King-street, Cheapside, recently, and at the Gresham-street corner they are taking down a house, round which, of course, there is a hoarding, and whilst I was going along close by it, a cab suddenly shot round from Gresham-street, knocked me down, and ran over my foot, which has confined me to my room ever since. I have addressed you, to complain of hoardings being erected at corners of streets, without pathways being protected for foot passengers.—JOHN WILSON.

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